



Hamsterley Primary Newsletter

13th October 2020
www.hamsterley.durham.sch.uk

E-Safety/Social Media

We usually offer an E-Safety Session for Parents this term, however, due to the current situation we are just asking parents to keep their children safe whilst using apps. There are age restrictions which you can usually find within the app's terms and conditions. This is not the same as the app/google store rating. The age limit for many popular social networking sites is thirteen. Some apps will have age limits of 18+ as they are exclusively designed for use by adults. If children use apps that are aimed at an older age group then this may leave them vulnerable to being exposed to unsuitable content (including advertising), as well as being contacted by strangers. Many popular apps will have 'help' and 'safety' sections, either within the app itself or via its website. Some apps will even have content specifically designed for parents and carers. Please visit www.saferinternet.org.uk, this website has some useful parent guides which highlight safety tools on popular devices, and signpost to report mechanisms. If you require any further information or advice, please contact the school.

Remote Learning

Our children continuing their learning if they are self-isolating or if we are forced into another lockdown is imperative. We have been considering the best method of doing this for our children and teachers due to the number of year groups within each class. Before half term, we intend to have a program in place which will be attractive and accessible to our children as well as providing a method for the children to submit the work that they have completed to the class teacher and receive feedback. We hope that this will enable us in the event of a class or school closure particularly, a way to continue to provide the required curriculum whilst the children are not in school. We will provide you with more information shortly. Until this program is in place, class teachers are posting teaching and learning materials on the website, similar to the work being carried out in the classroom, for any children self-isolating to continue their learning at home – a link to the remote learning page for each class can be found on the class page on the website.

Reception Photographs

Just a reminder that the First-Class feature will be in The Northern Echo on Tuesday 20th October.

Drop off reminder

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that maintaining 'bubbles' and social distancing is essential at the moment. Therefore, we would be grateful if children arrived promptly at school, not more than 5 minutes before their start time and not more than 10 minutes after. We must all work together to try to keep everyone safe. We would also like to remind you that at present no parents are allowed on site. Children in Class 2 should arrive at 8:45, and those in Class 1 (or in Class 2 with siblings in Class 1) should arrive at 9:00.

Drinks Bottles

Please ensure that your child has their own cleaned drinks bottle each day. Thank you.

Warm Clothing

We are currently following the current COVID-19 Government advice ensuring windows and doors are open throughout the school to allow ventilation. With this in mind, please ensure that your child comes to school in warm clothing.

Parent Pay

Parent Pay accounts are updated each Friday. Please ensure you log into your account each weekend to make any payment due for that week. Thank you.

Wrap around care

In order that we can ensure social distancing during our breakfast club and after school care, it is essential that we have a clear idea of the numbers of children who are attending each day. Therefore, we would like to remind parents that children should be pre-booked into wrap around care by the Friday of the week before the provision is required.

Year 5 & 6 Teesdale Virtual Open Evening

Virtual Open Evening videos for Teesdale School are available to view through the school website. There is an opportunity to meet the Head of School in addition to a promotional video for each department which can be accessed by clicking on the links in the virtual school map. Due to popular demand, the videos will remain on the website until the closing date for applications. Reminder - Closing date for Secondary Applications is 31st October 2020.

Harvest Festival

Unfortunately, due to the restrictions currently in force, we will not be able to hold a Harvest celebration this year. The past eight months have been particularly difficult for some families and we are keen to support those in our area, therefore we will still be collecting dry goods and toiletries for the Woodhouse Close Community Centre Foodbank. Please send any donations into school with children by Wednesday October 21st.

Remembrance Service

As this is held outdoors, Class 2 are still able to go to the War memorial to lay a wreath. We are not able to invite parents to this because of the Covid-19 restrictions, but we will add photographs and a video to our website afterwards. Poppies and other Remembrance Day items will be on sale in school soon.

Halloween in School

The Friends of the School have kindly offered to donate sweets and treats for a Trick or Treat treasure hunt in school on the final Friday of this half-term (23rd October). Children are invited to come dressed in their Halloween costume. Class 1 and Class 2 will be kept in separate bubbles for this event.

Parents Evening

We will not be holding traditional parents evening due to the current restrictions, however, we are looking into holding 1:1 virtual parent's evening sessions, further information to follow.

Dates for your diary...

Reception Feature in Northern Echo	Tuesday 20 th October
Foodbank collection deadline	Wednesday 21 st October
Trick or Treat Treasure Hunt/Halloween Dress Up	Friday 23 rd October
Year 6 Closing Date for Secondary Applications	Saturday 31 st October
School Closes for Half Term	Friday 23 rd October
School Opens	Monday 2 nd November

S. Kitching

Headteacher

D. Hassan

Deputy Headteacher